

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2006, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Smisek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Armstrong, Miranda, Smisek,
Stadler, Strehler, and Chairperson Wang.

Absent: Commissioner Smith.

Also Present: Cultural Services Administrator Myers and
Cultural Services Consultant Powers.

MOTION: Commissioner Smisek moved to grant Commissioner Smith an excused absence for the January 23, 2006 Cultural Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Stadler seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Stadler moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Smisek seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Wang so ordered.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 2005 & DECEMBER 2005

MOTION: Commissioner Armstrong moved for the approval of the July 18, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Strehler and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Smith).

Minutes of the December 18, 2005 meeting were not available.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. ANNOUNCE COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Cultural Services Administrator Myers congratulated Commissioner Smisek for her reappointment to the Cultural Arts Commission at the January 10, 2006 City Council meeting.

Commissioners and staff welcomed Benito Miranda as a new Cultural Arts Commissioner who shared information about his background.

7B. 2006 EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARDS

Cultural Services Administrator Myers reported that the 2006 Excellence in Arts Award ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, April 30, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. He requested that Commissioners review the 2005 Committee Chairperson assignments and consider changes. He stated that nomination packets will be mailed out in the near future and encouraged Commissioners to distribute nomination forms to colleagues and acquaintances to help ensure an excellent field from which to choose 2006 award winners.

Following a brief discussion, the following Committee Chairperson assignments for 2006 were selected as follows:

Arts Education	Commissioner Strehler
Music	Commissioner Armstrong
Katy Geissert Award	Commissioner Stadler
Literary Art	Commissioner Smisek
Drama	Commissioner Miranda
Visual Arts	Chairperson Wang
Dance	Commissioner Smith

Chairperson Wang received clarification that the deadline for submitting nominations is March 8, 2006 and that a list of past winners was included in the agenda material.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers reminded Committee Chairpersons that they could bring other Commissioners or people from outside into the subcommittees, as long as there were not more than three Commissioners on a committee.

Commissioner Armstrong suggested that Commissioners share information with each other about the different categories.

7C. ADOPT RESOLUTION HONORING RETIRED COMMISSIONER MARY P. MILLER

MOTION: Commissioner Stadler moved to adopt the resolution honoring retired Commissioner Mary P. Miller for her contribution to the arts and dedicated service to the citizens of Torrance. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Smith).

10. ORALS

This item was considered out of order.

Richard Whitehorse, Wood Avenue, representing Torrance Artist Guild and South Bay Watercolor Society, requested that the Commission consider a proposal that the two groups showcase and display and/or sell their work in the new store area of the Torrance Art Museum. He stated that, as past President of the Torrance Artist Guild, he prepared a proposal in 2002 and asked that the idea be formally revisited. He discussed research that he did four years ago and offered to distribute copies of the 2002 proposal.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers advised that the Commission could not take action on the item tonight because it was not on the agenda, but that a general discussion on the concept could take place.

Commissioner Armstrong stated that she liked the idea tremendously. She received clarification from Mr. Whitehorse that the time period being proposed was open ended and that he hoped as the venture went forward that there would be support and enthusiasm from the art community in Torrance.

Responding to Commissioner Smisek's inquiry, Mr. Whitehorse stated it was currently being proposed that the two groups combine their efforts in working with the City to run the store.

In response to Commissioner Strehler's inquiry, he stated that a committee of jurors from the two organizations would be responsible for selecting works to be showcased, adding that they hoped to work closely with Torrance Art Museum representatives. He stated that in 2002 approximately 30 Torrance Artist Guild members expressed a willingness to commit their time and cost to display their work, but that the venture would now be stronger with the addition of the South Bay Watercolor Society.

Bill Wassenberg, president of the South Bay Watercolor Society, stated that at present there were 114 members and 50 who attend meetings regularly.

Commissioner Smisek initiated a brief discussion regarding other items that could be sold in the store.

Penny Kastagir, president of Torrance Artist Guild, expressed doubt that artists would be able to sell books, catalogs, or supplies in the store that were not their own.

It was determined that the store area was 348 square feet, with an additional storage closet, that Torrance Artist Guild and South Bay Watercolor Society were non profit organizations, and that hours of operation are from noon to 6:00 p.m., five days a week.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers provided background on staff's consideration for utilization of the store area of the Museum. He stated that their goal was for the space to have a multifunctional aspect to it that would attract people as well as a multifaceted retail opportunity. He stated that well selected educational features for children, art objects, jewelry, and a center for purchasing clay and art supplies were envisioned to excite people and draw them into the Museum as well as the Cultural Arts

Center. He stated that including artwork was possible, but that it would be one of five or six main focuses. He noted that staff has looked at three vendor proposals but that nothing has materialized yet. He stated that they were looking for a strict business contractual relationship and discussed disadvantages of volunteer-based stores.

When Commissioner Armstrong asked if the organizations could think of themselves as a vendor, Mr. Whitehorse stated that he would find out who would want to be involved and determine the financial aspect.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers stated that staff was looking for a commercial vendor who was willing to work with them on product line and services. He discussed the importance of making a good first impression with a high standard of criteria, noting that the business plan should be predictable and not experimental.

Commissioner Strehler noted that the artist groups, even on a temporary basis, would attract a large number of people.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers offered to put the item on the agenda for the February 27, 2006 Commission meeting.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

Previously discussed at this meeting.

8B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN

No report.

8C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Services Consultant Powers distributed fliers on the Works in Progress presentation of Blockbuster! on February 22, March 29, April 26, and May 31, 2006. He provided information about the topic of the four segments—the 9-11 Commission Report—as well as reasons for selecting the work, what will be covered in each segment, the structure and dialogue, and the space and staging. He noted that the audience would play a crucial role in the presentations and that the work would be presented in the round to embrace a form of theater familiar in the Middle East. He stated that ticket sales have commenced and that purchase of season tickets was being encouraged so that attendees could experience the story from beginning to end.

He noted that the Torrance Library would be doing four separate events related to the subject matter, beginning with a Meet the Author presentation on February 11, 2006.

In response to Commissioner Miranda's inquiry, he stated that seating in the Nakano Theatre varies, but that performances of the 9-11 Commissioner Report would seat approximately 150. He explained reasons why Wednesday evenings were selected for

Works in Progress performances that include theater availability, to encourage City employee attendance, and cooperation with CitiCable.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers reported on recent successful programming that included two Torrance Civic Chorale performances on December 9-10, 2005, the youth production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on December 16-17, 2005, and the opening exhibition of plein air artwork at the Torrance Art Museum on January 14, 2006. He stated that Torrance Theatre Company would open their 2006 season with "Biloxi Blues."

10. ORALS

Commissioner Strehler stated that she attended the January 10, 2006 Torrance Artist Guild meeting and requested that Mr. Whitehorse's proposal be given serious consideration. She stated that she enjoyed attending the reception at the Torrance Art Museum and hearing the Torrance Symphony on January 21, 2006.

Commissioner Armstrong stated that she also enjoyed the opening of the second exhibit at the Torrance Art Museum.

Commissioner Stadler stated that she was in New York for New Year's Eve and visited the Museum of Modern Art and saw "Wicked."

Commissioner Smisek stated that the variety of artwork at the opening exhibit at the Museum was intriguing and that she attended a Chinese New Years celebration at Norris Pavilion. She stated that she enjoyed the Richard Smith jazz performance on January 20, 2006, the String Family Players on January 21, 2006, and the American Perspectives speaker B. D. Wong on January 22, 2006.

Commissioner Miranda stated that he is involved with the Lotus Festival in Silverlake and that this year the Philippines is the host country.

Chairperson Wang stated that she enjoyed the retirement dinner for Commissioner Miller and the B. D. Wong lecture.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:24 p.m., Commissioner Stadler moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, February 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Miranda seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Wang so ordered.

Approved as Submitted February 27, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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